

## [Letter from Harold Spivacke to Carita Doggett Corse, August 16, 1939]

August 16, 1939

Dr. Carita Doggett Corse State Director Federal Writers Project 49 West Duval Street  
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Dr. Corse:

I am very sorry to hear that there has been so much confusion in our shipments to you. We sent you the fifty records which we had on hand by prepaid express in the same shipment that contained the machine and other equipment. We ordered from Presto four needles to be sent to you direct and included in the order a request for additional records to replenish our supply. We only sent fifty discs to you because most collectors do not care to carry more than that while traveling around. We had intended to send the second batch when needed.

I have no idea how you came to receive thirty-two needles and any records at all direct from Presto. Are you certain that these records were not those sent you from the Library by express? They were in Presto containers. We are taking all steps to clear this situation up having written to Presto and sent a tracer to the express company.

When this project was first approved we were under the impression that the recording was to be done by Miss Zora Neale Hurston. We have since heard that she is no longer connected with your project. This is a matter of concern to us because we naturally hesitate to place such valuable machinery in the hands of inexperienced parties to say nothing of the possible waste of expensive discs and needles. I trust you will be able to reassure me on this point.

## Library of Congress

The time limitation of August 31 in my original telegram to you was influenced by the information obtainable in newspapers. It seemed that the whole WRITERS PROJECT might go out of existence on August 31 unless continued under local sponsorship. I have since been informed that there is every likelihood that your project will be continued. As soon as this is officially confirmed, will you please make a formal request through the Works Progress Administration for an extension of time. I have every reason to believe there will be no difficulty in obtaining for you a reasonable extension of the loan.

Sincerely yours, Harold Spivacke Chief Division of Music

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